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Week Ending October 15, 2000

EXCELLENT WEEK FOR CROP HARVEST

Tennessee farmers took advantage of the dry conditions last week to continue making excellent progress with crop harvest. The State’s cotton growers harvested an additional 17 percent of the acreage, with only 21 percent yet to be completed. Cotton harvest is currently running nearly two weeks ahead of the five-year average. Soybean producers also made good progress with 39 percent of the State’s acreage harvested by week’s end. Yields for both crops continue to be highly variable this year, mainly due to poor growing conditions during August. Early indications from reports around the State show no significant loss of yield to the late soybean crop as a result of last week’s killing frost. The amount of damage, however, will not be known for sure until harvest is complete. In addition to harvesting, producers were busy seeding winter wheat, stripping tobacco, and renovating pastures. There were seven days considered suitable for field work this past week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 19 percent very short, 44 percent short, and 37 percent adequate. Most areas of the State are in need of rain to replenish topsoil moisture, and to ensure the proper germination of winter wheat and fall forage crops. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 32 percent very short, 42 percent short, 25 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS: Through October 15, 2000					CROP CONDITION: On October 13, 2000					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	1999	Five Year Avg.	Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
Percent					Percent					
Soybeans - Dropping Leaves	90	72	91	88	Pastures	17	26	35	19	3
Soybeans - Harvested	39	27	46	26						
Cotton - Harvested	79	62	70	54						
Burley - Stripped	31	24	25	24						
Winter Wheat - Seeded	27	14	19	26						

**SOYBEANS:** An additional 12 percent of the acreage was harvested last week, while freezing temperatures led to a sharp increase in the amount of acreage shedding leaves. Producers must now wait and see how the double crop beans will dry down following last week’s killing freeze.

**TOBACCO:** Growers continued preparing their crop for market last week by firing barns and stripping an additional 7 percent of the burley crop. The small amount of tobacco remaining in fields last week was severely damaged by the freezing temperatures.

**COTTON:** As of Sunday, harvest was running nearly two weeks ahead of normal with only 21 percent of the State’s acreage remaining to be completed. Some are attempting a second picking, while others are quickly shredding the stalks.

**WINTER WHEAT:** Good progress was made last week, but some producers are delaying any additional seedings until rains arrive. The amount seeded thus far is in line with the five-year average, but well ahead of last year when dry conditions delayed progress.

**PASTURES & HAY:** Pasture overseeding and fertilization continued last week, but has slowed due to the dry conditions. Some livestock producers have already begun feeding hay, and the early freeze may force some to move feeder cattle to market earlier than they had anticipated.

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION For week ending: 10/15/00 (with comparisons)										
LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
	Week Ending 10/15/00				Current Week	Rain	Current	Departure	Since April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	10/15/00	Days	Since April 1	From Normal		
Ames_Plantation	86	26	54	-8	0.00	0	18.89	-7.91	2698	+273
Bristol	76	26	48	-10	0.00	0	22.01	-0.70	1739	+75
Brownsville_TN	82	33	55	-8	0.00	0	21.27	-5.44	2757	+612
Chattanooga	79	33	53	-9	0.00	0	26.40	+0.19	2697	+354
Clarksville_Sew	82	31	56	-3	0.00	0	28.61	+3.09	2557	+385
Cookeville	79	26	49	-10	0.00	0	25.60	-3.98	1946	+604
Covington	83	33	55	-7	0.00	0	21.32	-4.73	2800	+328
Crossville_AP	75	28	49	-8	0.00	0	27.20	-1.24	1812	+290
Dickson_AG	80	26	53	-8	0.00	0	21.13	-6.71	2139	-114
Dover_1W	79	30	52	-8	0.00	0	27.42	+0.50	2289	+357
Dyersburg	81	30	55	-8	0.00	0	23.94	-1.93	2697	+73
Erwin_1W	77	27	48	-8	0.00	0	25.06	-3.10	1716	-253
Huntingdon_Wate	81	29	52	-9	0.00	0	22.27	-5.44	2120	+73
Jackson_AG	83	29	55	-7	0.00	0	21.14	-6.07	2602	+231
Kingston_AG	76	32	52	-7	0.00	0	25.22	-4.39	2264	+486
Knoxville_AP	76	30	51	-9	0.00	0	27.33	+3.34	2299	+290
Lewisburg	81	24	48	-12	0.00	0	26.65	-1.51	2123	+107
Lexington_TN	82	30	54	-9	0.00	0	23.06	-3.20	2548	+1115
Linden	83	25	50	-10	0.00	0	21.26	-6.55	2279	+242
Martin	82	29	53	-8	0.00	0	25.43	-2.36	2481	+223
Mc_Minnville_Tn	80	27	51	-10	0.00	0	24.32	-3.10	2166	-356
Memphis_AG	85	31	55	-10	0.00	0	19.92	-6.12	2873	-73
Milan	83	23	50	-10	0.00	0	22.81	-5.80	2176	-29
Murfreesboro_5N	81	27	51	-10	0.00	0	27.74	-0.38	2208	-314
Nashville	81	30	53	-9	0.00	0	21.88	-3.00	2603	+210
Newcomb	79	25	47	-8	0.00	0	22.84	-6.61	1771	+344
Oneida	77	24	46	-9	0.00	0	23.59	-5.86	1685	-460
Pikeville	79	27	52	-9	0.00	0	21.92	-4.56	2147	+190
Portland_TN	79	32	53	-6	0.00	0	23.09	-3.54	2245	+274
Pulaski_Water_P	80	28	49	-13	0.00	0	27.26	-0.22	2312	-57
Savannah_6SW	86	28	55	-8	0.00	0	21.74	-6.48	2830	+728
Sparta_TN	80	25	51	-8	0.00	0	29.52	+0.93	2106	+403
Springfield	81	24	51	-8	0.00	0	23.09	-2.62	2135	+163
Springhill	80	27	51	-9	0.00	0	23.81	-4.16	2383	+378
Union_City	81	28	52	-8	0.00	0	23.77	-3.07	2311	+131

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.      Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

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